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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

In the Matter of

**Application for Approval of Agreement by the
International Air Transport Association**

Docket OST-2003-14480

NOTICE

On February 7, 2003, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) filed an agreement in the above-captioned docket for approval. Comments would normally be due 21 days from filing, i.e., on February 28, 2003.

On February 13, 2003, the High Tech Airfreight Shippers Coalition (the Coalition) submitted a letter seeking extension for a minimum of 90 days beyond the normal 21-day comment period.^{1/} Answers to the Coalition's request would have been due on February 26, 2003. We shortened the answer date on the Coalition's request to 3 p.m. February 24, 2003.

IATA answered the Coalition's request and stated that while IATA did not object to an extension of 60 days beyond the normal period for comments, the requested 90-day extension was excessive and unnecessary.

We received answers supporting the full 90-day extension from the Coalition from the Health & Personal Care Logistics Conference, Inc., the National Small Shipments Traffic Conference, Inc, and from the National Industrial Transportation League.

In light of the potentially complex analytical issues raised by the IATA application we view it as particularly important to develop an adequate record for decision. In this regard we find it consistent with the public interest to ensure that all interested parties have sufficient time to submit comments. We therefore have decided to extend the comment period on IATA's application for 90 days beyond the date on which comments otherwise would have been due.

^{1/} We also received a comparable request from the Health & Personal Care Logistics Conference, Inc. and the National Small Shipments Traffic Conference, Inc.

Therefore, acting under authority assigned to the Director, Office of International Aviation, 14 CFR 385, we are extending the period for comment on the agreement in the above-captioned docket to May 29, 2003.

We will serve this notice on all interested parties who have filed pleadings in the docket, as well as on those who were served by IATA with its application.

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH
Director
Office of International Aviation

(SEAL)

Dated: February 25, 2003

*An electronic version of this notice is available on the World Wide Web at
http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp*